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THE REHEARSAL.

1. What is meant by *Intruders into Churches* in *Scotland*.
2. And what by the *Call* of the *People*.
3. What by the *Legal Call*. The *Presbyterians* have set up that *Erastianism*, which they *Abjure*.
4. Their Zeal for the *Call* of the *People*, in the *Reign* of King *Char.* 2. And since the *Revolution*. Which yet they now Deny to the Episcopal *People*.
5. This shews the *Inclinations* of the *People* to be against them.
6. The *Episcopal Clergy* in *Scotland* who *Swear* and *Pray* as ill us'd as the Rest. They have lately been put in *Prison* for not *Renouncing* their *Function*. For which ther is no *Law*.
7. Ther are more of the *Presbyterian Preachers* in *Scotland* who have not taken the *Oaths*, than ther are of the *Episcopal Clergy* now Alive there.

SATURDAY, *November* 27. 1708.

(1.) *Rehearsal.* TO pursue the Subject where I left off last time, I must Explain some *Terms* to you *Country-man*; as first what is meant by *Intruders into Churches*, as it is now us'd with the *Presbyterians* in *North-Britain*.

Country-m. Where's the Difficulty of that? I suppose it is those *Episcopal Clergy* there, who being Outed by a *Law* since the *Revolution*, yet will not be Content, but *Intrude* themselves by Force into *Churches*, and *Thrust out* the *Presbyterian Ministers* now *Establish'd* by *Law*.

Rehearsal. The words do Naturally lead to that Meaning. And I believe it is so Understood Generally through *England*. But it is Quite another thing, *Country-man*. Ther's nothing of *Force* in the Case. Nor of *Thrusting out* any *Presbyterian Minister*. But ther are many *Parishes* in *Scotland* (to use the old word) where the People are for the most part, and some altogether *Episcopal*, and not one *Presbyterian* among them. These think the *Presbyterian Communion* Utterly *Unlawful*, as having no True *Ordination*, and therefore that they are no *Ministers* of *Christ*, but *Intruders* themselves upon their Lawful *Bishops* still Alive amongst them, against whom they stand out in open *Schism*; which they think no *Civil Law* can make not to be *Schism*, or Alter the Nature of *Sin*. Therefore they Cannot in *Conscience* Join with them, or Receive the *Sacraments* at their hands, which they think they have no *Authority* to *Administer*.

Besides that the Holy *Scriptures* are seldom or never Read in their *Publick Assemblies*. And they have thrown the *Lord's Prayer*, and *Glory to the Father* &c. Quite out of their *Worship*.

For these Reasons, those of the *Episcopal* Persuasion there (that they may not be wholly Destitute of the *Worship* of *God*, and Partaking of His Holy *Ordinances*) Call some *Episcopal Clergy-man* to *Officiate* to them, but without any other way *Encroaching* or *Intruding* upon the *Presbyterian Preachers*, or their *Establishment*.

(2.) *Country-m.* I have been told, *Master*, That the *Call* of the *People* is the *Presbyterian* way of filling *Churches*.

Rehearsal. Yes *Country-man*, and they have Contended for it, as the only *Lawful* way, and Pursuant to the *Institution* of *Christ* and His *Apostles*.

Country-m. And do they forsake that way now?

Rehearsal. No, not among themselves, where they are sure of the *Inclinations* of the *People*. But they will not Allow it to *Other People*, to those of the *Episcopal* Persuasion. They set up against them the *Legal Call*, that is, What is Pursuant to the *Acts of Parliament* made since the *Revolution* for *Abolishing* of *Episcopacy* &c.

Country-m. Did not they find Fault with this *Legal Call* in the Times of *Episcopacy*, and when the *Laws* were on that side?

Rehearsal. Yes, with a Loud Voice! They call'd it *Anti-Christian* and Divesting the *People* of that *Liberty* wherewith *Christ* had made them *Free*.

Country-m. It seems then that by the *People* they only Meant *Themselves!* The *Episcopal Folks* are no *People*, or have any *Right* to the *Priviledges* of the *Gospel*.

(3.)

(3.) But *Master*, Was not this *Legal Call*, and the *State* Intermedling in the Affairs of the *Church*, especially in the *Putting in* and *Putting out* the *Clergy*, what the *Presbyterians* meant by that word *Erastianism*?

Rehearſ. Yes, *Country-Man.* And they have *Abjur'd* it by Name, even in this *Reign*, in both their *Provincial Synods*, the one in *October*, the other in *November* 1702. Both of which are given us *Verbatim* in the *New Aſſociation.*

Country-m. Strange! To *Abjure* what themſelves *Practice* every Day! And the whole *Foundation* upon which *Themſelves* do ſtand! For the preſent *Presbyterian Eſtabliſhment* in *Scotland* has no other than a Plain *Erastian* Foundation. Ther was not one *Spiritual* Man in that *Parliament* which Aboliſh'd *Epiſcopacy.*

(4.) *Rehearſ.* They were ſo Zealous for the *Call* of the *People*, that they wou'd not Allow the *Biſhop* to *Collate* or the *King* to *Preſent* to any *Church.* Nay, they wou'd not Suffer the *King* ſo much as to *Tolerate* or *Indulge* their own *Presbyterian Preachers*, when the *Laws* were againſt them; to Avoid any Umbrage of Holding from the *King*, or that they Needed any Help of his Authority. For when King *Char.* II. to take away all Pretence of their Suffering for *Conſcience*, Order'd the *Privy-Council* in *Scotland* to *Indulge* above a *Hundred* of their own Chief *Preachers*, with full *Liberty* to them to Hear them; They *Spurn'd* at it, wou'd not *Accept* it; And thoſe of their *Preachers* who took hold of this *Indulgence* and Shelter'd themſelves under it, they Forſook, wou'd not go Hear them, and counted them *Traitors* of the *Rights* of the *Church*, call'd them the *Council Curates*, and held them in Greater *Contempt* than the *Clergy*, whom they call'd the *Biſhops Curats.*

And ſince the *Revolution* they have Procur'd an *Act of Parliament* to Aboliſh all *Patronages* or Right to *Preſent* to *Churches*, as well thoſe in the *Crown*, as in private *Patrons*; That the *People* might be Reſtor'd to their *Call*; which they think the only True and *Evangelical* Method.

Country-m. Yet they ſet up the *Legal Call* againſt this, where the *Inclinations* of the *People* are *Epiſcopal.*

(5.) *Rehearſ.* It appears now how Juſtly they Pretended to the *Inclinations* of the *People.* Which was the Reaſon given in the *Act of Parliament* for Aboliſhing of *Epiſcopacy*, becauſe it was Contrary to the *Inclinations* of the *People.* And yet they now ſet up that *Eraſtianiſm* which they *Abjure*, to Preſerve them from the *Inclinations* of the *People!* And they call thoſe *Intruders* who come in upon the *Call* of the *People*!

(6.) *Country-m.* But is ther not a Pretence againſt the *Epiſcopal Clergy* in *Scotland*, That they have not *Qualify'd* as to the *Government*, by taking the *Oaths*, &c.

Rehearſ. Ther is no *Law* there Requiring them that enjoy no *Benefices*, to do it. They have no *Place* or *Employment* for which to *Qualify.* And it wou'd be *Vain-Swearing* to *Swear* for *Nothing.*

Yet ſome of them have been ſo Officious as to do it. But they far'd ne'r the better for't. Their *Meeting-Houſes* are ſhut up as well as the Reſt, tho' they both *Swore* and *Pray'd.* For *Epiſcopacy* is the Caſe. And they Us'd the *Engliſh Liturgy.*

And they were Requir'd to Renounce their *Orders*, that is, to give it under their Hands never to Exerciſe any Part of their *Function* any more, or elſe go to *Priſon.* Which Later (like *Chriſtian Confeſſors*) they Choſe, and to *Priſon* they were ſent for this. Tho' I am Inform'd ther is no *Law* for it.

(7.) But, *Country man*, I'll tell you what's Stranger than all this. Ther are more *Presbyterian Preachers* now in Place, who are upon the *Eſtabliſhment* in *Scotland*, that have not taken the *Oaths*, than ther are of the *Epiſcopal Clergy* now Alive in that *Country.*

Country-m. This is *Strange* indeed! Then it is Plain that (as you ſay) *Epiſcopacy* only is the Caſe. And *That* muſt be *Rooted Out*, let them *Swear* or *not Swear*!

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